

WARREN - SB 374

I am writing this email as a concerned parent regarding Proposed S.B. No. 374 introduced by Senator Harp of the 10th district and Representative Walker of the 93rd district. I have children ages 10 and 14. It is MY RESPONSIBILITY as a parent to have my children evaluated if the need is there. I DO NOT agree that the government should be given the right to give my children behavioral health assessments WITHOUT MY consent or agreement. Should a child age 17 decide to enlist in the armed forces, they need parental consent. Should a child under 18 want an abortion, they need parental consent. Should a child under 18 want a tattoo, they need parental consent. Those are just a few of the examples where parental consent is needed. Why would we as parents allow an organization to assess our child's behavioral health without a parental consent?! It's ridiculous!!

We are all concerned about the gun violence in this world today, I think we are raising some VERY ANGRY CHILDREN!!! Sandy Hook was a horrible tragedy that NO parent should have to go through. But is a mandatory behavioral health assessment REALLY going to prevent another Sandy Hook or Columbine or Virginia Tech? Will it prevent kids from NOT bullying one another? Will it prevent an ANGRY child from going out to get a gun in order to finally be heard?!!! Will it prevent hours of time spent on realistic video games?!! What about the violence they are exposed to in Hollywood movies? Maybe we should be looking at the video game industry along with Hollywood in order to get a better understanding of why some of our kids behave the way they do. Maybe that's a Pandora's box that doesn't want to be opened by Washington D.C. because of all the huge campaign contributors from those walks of life....

I think providing mandatory behavioral health assessments to children is absurd. Parents should be given a choice if they want an evaluation done for their children. What is going to happen if there is an issue?! What services will be provided for the child? Will they be put into a mental health system that is already overloaded with other clients? Put them on a waiting list for 6 months and then what?! In my opinion the government is overstepping their bounds. A PARENT SHOULD BE GIVEN THE OPTION IF THEY WANT THEIR CHILD'S BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ASSESSED!!!

We as a nation have failed our children!!! We sit back and point the finger at NRA or the mental health industry or the teachers and schools. We do NOTHING to protect our children when there are bullies out there!!! As a matter of fact we protect the bullies!!! REALLY?!!! The fact of the matter is we as PARENTS have failed our children. OUR government has failed us as a nation and as parents....Parents have to work, sometimes many jobs in order to make ends meet. Where was our government when the oil prices rose?!! They were UNWILLING to do anything about it. Why do parents have to work so hard in order to provide a decent life for their children?!! Parents now a days are more likely to be out of the house to provide for their children. Parents are no longer able to be there with their children....they are left to fend for themselves.

I think we have an obligation and responsibility to our children to provide them the best that we can. But having the government provide mandatory behavioral health assessments is NOT the way to go. WE NEED TO WORK TOGETHER TO BETTER THE LIVES FOR OUR CHILDREN. Giving the government the right to test our children WITHOUT A PARENTS CONSENT OR KNOWLEDGE IS JUST UNACCEPTABLE!! I WILL NOT STAND FOR THAT!!! It takes a village to raise a child. If our main goal is to provide the best for our children then it is ABSOLUTELY necessary for us as a nation to stand side by side, hand in hand in order to do so! There are SO many other ways to help these children!! Giving them a test after written consent and agreement from a parent or guardian is a first step. We NEED to have a plan as well as resources available to continue to help them if an issue arises. HOWEVER I fully believe that this is only part of the puzzle....

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